

# Cohasset Marine

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## Police Recover Stolen Goods Valued At \$250,000

# It Was Unbelievable, Stockbridge

By Judith Epstein

Cohasset Police officers recovered nearly \$250,000 worth of stolen goods from a Margin Street apartment early Saturday morning following a week of surveillance and an evening of good luck.

"The gates of heaven opened up for us, and we went in by invitation," said

Lt. Charles Stockbridge of the fortuitous recovery.

Patrolman Paul Laugelle, one of the officers credited with the discovery of the goods, agreed. "It was convenient." He and Det. Donald Damon of Scituate had been trying to gather sufficient information on the apartment, which they watched for a week, to obtain a search warrant.

"I got information from an informant," Laugelle said. "We have no detectives here; I took telephoto pictures of the place and watched it on my own time."

So, when Laugelle and Patrolman Randolph Feola Jr. received a call at 6:30 p.m. Friday to check on a woman who claimed she'd been beaten by her boyfriend, a policeman's dream was

about to unfold.

Linda Ostravage, 19, was waiting outside Kimball's Motel expecting a police escort home. But when Laugelle and Feola discovered where the young woman lived, where, in fact, she led them because she apparently feared going home alone, they immediately secured the apartment and called for Lt. Stockbridge's assistance.

Lt. Stockbridge, currently in charge of the department, arrived at the scene and was stunned, he said, as he walked through the apartment. "All I observed were oriental rugs, oil paintings, Ming vases.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "It was obvious the apartment was full of stolen items, that they didn't belong to a 19 year-old girl in a \$250 a month apartment. Imagine coming in from the snow to wipe your feet on an oriental rug — it's unheard of."

Stockbridge placed Ostravage, who at first, he said, gave a false name of Angela Capone, under arrest and had the officers stay with her at the apartment while he obtained a search warrant. After several hours, a search warrant was secured from John Dalton, Assistant Clerk of Quincy Court; Ostravage had been brought to the department accompanied by a matron and by 2 a.m. police proceeded to work through the night, removing four truck and van-loads full of stolen goods from the apartment to the police station.

Kevin Gidea, 23, who apparently had seen police arriving at the apartment that evening, made a temporary getaway out the back door. Boston Police arrested him early Monday evening, and he was returned to the Cohasset department by Laugelle that same night.

Lt. Stockbridge reported that Gidea and Ostravage had been posing as man and wife when they moved there in December. "The landlord never noticed the stuff coming in," he said, "he thought they were just moving."

The recovered goods are believed stolen from numerous house breaks in Hingham, Norwell, Scituate, Quincy, Randolph and Canton — most of which occurred over the past few months, although some breaks may date back as far as September. Nothing, apparently, was taken from Cohasset.

As of Monday night over \$125,000 worth of merchandise had been claimed by residents of the aforementioned towns.

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**MASSIVE HAUL** — An estimated \$250,000 of stolen property of almost every kind and description was recovered in Cohasset last Saturday. A small portion of what was recovered in the raid is displayed above. Right, Police Officer Brian Cogill examines a vase which was confiscated in the haul. Also recovered was a quantity and variety of drugs. (Photos by Greg Derr)

## Opponents Hit Town Hall Plan

The Committee to Study Space Needs for Town Offices held an open meeting Tuesday night to discuss the \$326,000 plan, designed by architects Brett Donham and Tadg Sweeney of Boston, to renovate the Town Hall.

Chairman Daniel Cotton addressed the 40 residents and town officials in attendance before Donham proposed the plan which was chosen over seven other renovation variations and which was approved by the Committee a few weeks ago. Cotton said that the Committee had worked arduously to study a wide range of factors affecting office space needs including population by the year 2000, the attitudes and opinions of Town Hall employees and residents, and the importance of locale.

Cotton said the Committee, deliberately large in consisting of nine members, concluded that the Town Hall should remain situated in the Common area and that the renovation of the existing building, with minimal exterior change would still be able to satisfactorily suit the needs of the 10,000 people expected to be living in Cohasset in 30 years.

Donham explained the plan which calls for the shortening of the auditorium so the first floor would contain offices for the Town Clerk, Selectmen,

Selectmen's Clerk, as well as handicapped toilets and a vault for town records. An elevator and exterior ramp would make the building totally accessible to the handicapped. In the rear of the first floor, behind and beneath the stage area, where the old dressing rooms are now, the Recreation Department would have offices, although Donham explained that the plan for this department requires further work.

The exterior of the building would remain almost exactly the same, with the exception of the access ramp on

the parking lot side of the building. Upstairs, Donham said, more efficient location of the offices would result in the adjoining of one office with another. Large connected offices would be shared by the Treasurer and Tax Collector, the Accountant and computer room, and the Building Inspector and the Board of Health.

The cost estimate includes the installation of an elevator, insulation to be added to the roof and walls, revisions for the heating system, a summer cooling program which in-

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## Jazz Ensemble Wins Festival 'Gig'

The Cohasset High School Jazz-Rock Ensemble, under the direction of Anthony Hyde, was awarded first place in the second annual Norwood Jazz Classic Festival held Jan. 26.

The "skippers" were among nine bands from eastern Massachusetts and Maine to compete for the honors. Among other local schools involved were: Marshfield (second place), Sharon (4th) and Abington (8th). Beverly High

School placed third and the pre-festival favorite, Westbrook, Maine, slipped to 5th.

This marked the second "First Place" trophy won by Cohasset in the recent past. Last Spring they captured the Class III title at the Berklee College of Music Awards Festival in Boston.

Singled out as the outstanding trombone player of the evening was Cohasset senior Peter Cook, featured on several of the composi-

tions. He was awarded a citation for his efforts.

Overall musical effectiveness, variety, soloists balance and blend were the key areas which put Cohasset over the top. An outstanding trombone section and a unique and effective flute section were also singled out for praise by the three judges. Those having a featured solo during the program were: Andy Trask, Sally Sisson,

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